



Attorney's Docket No. 8151-24A

6-16-01 RECEIVED

AUG 01 2001

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Hanley, Jr. et al.
Appl. No.: 09/560,288
Filed: April 27, 2000
For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING HUMAN
INTERVERTEBRAL DISC CELLS

Group Art Unit: 1633
Examiner: Kerr, J.

July 23, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed May 9, 2000, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In The Claims:

10. (Twice amended). A therapeutic composition for use in treating human disc diseases comprising an implantation carrier in the form of a hydrogel in admixture with *in vitro* propagated human intervertebral annulus disc cells, said disc cells being obtained from a monolayer human intervertebral annulus disc cell culture prepared by a method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a minced human intervertebral annulus disc tissue explant comprising human intervertebral disc cells; and
- b) culturing said minced explant under conditions to propagate and form a monolayer of human intervertebral disc cells, wherein the human intervertebral disc cells of said monolayer can be isolated and further propagated upon passaging.